NUMB. CCCXVI.

The SPECTATOR.

Libertas; quæ ſera tamen reſpexit Inertem. Virg. Ecl. 1.

Monday, March 3. 1712.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'IF you ever read a Letter which is ſent with 'the more Pleaſure for the Reality of its 'Complaints, this may have Reaſon to 'hope for a favourable Acceptance: and if 'Time be the moſt irretreivable Loſs, the Regrets 'which follow will be thought, I hope, the moſt 'juſtifiable. The regaining of my Liberty from 'a long State of Indolence and Inactivity, and the 'Deſire of reſiſting the farther Encroachments of 'Idleneſs, make me apply to you; and the Uneaſineſs with which I recollect the paſt Years, and 'the Apprehenſions with which I expect the Future, ſoon determin'd me to it.

'Idleneſs is ſo general a Diſtemper, that I cannot but imagine a Speculation on this Subject 'will be of univerſal uſe. There is hardly any 'one Perſon without ſome Allay of it; and thouſands beſides my ſelf ſpend more Time in an idle 'Uncertainty which to begin firſt of two Affairs, 'than wou'd have been ſufficient to have ended 'them both. The Occaſion of this ſeems to be 'the Want of ſome neceſſary Employment, to put 'the Spirits in Motion, and awaken them out of 'their Lethargy. If I had leſs Leiſure, I ſhould 'have more; for I ſhou'd then find my Time 'diſtinguiſh'd into Portions, ſome for Buſineſs, and 'others for the indulging of Pleaſures: But now 'one Face of Indolence over-ſpreads the whole, 'and I have no Land-mark to direct my ſelf by. 'Were one's Time a little ſtraitned by Buſineſs, 'like Water incloſ'd in its Banks, it would have 'ſome determin'd Courſe; but unleſs it be put into 'ſome Channel it has no Current, but becomes a 'Deluge without either Uſe or Motion.

'When *Scanderbeg* Prince of *Epirus* was dead, 'the *Turks*, who had but too often felt the Force 'of his Arm in the Battles he had won from them, 'imagin'd that by wearing a Piece of his Bones 'near their Heart, they ſhou'd be animated with a 'Vigour and Force like to that which inſpir'd him 'when living. As I am like to be but of little uſe 'whilſt I live, I am reſolv'd to do what Good I 'can after my Deceaſe; and have accordingly or'der'd my Bones to be diſpos'd of in this Manner 'for the Good of my Countrymen, who are trou'bled with too exorbitant a Degree of Fire. All 'Fox-hunters upon wearing me, would in a ſhort 'Time be brought to endure their Beds in a Morning, and perhaps even quit them with Regret at 'Ten: Inſtead of hurrying away to teaze a poor 'Animal, and run away from their own Thoughts, 'a Chair or a Chariot would be thought the moſt 'deſirable Means of performing a Remove from 'one Place to another. I ſhould be a Cure for 'the unnatural Deſire of *John Trott* for Dancing, 'and a Specifick to leſſen the Inclination Mrs. *Fidget* 'has to Motion, and cauſe her always to give her 'Approbation to the preſent Place ſhe is in. In 'ſhort, no *Egyptian* Mummy was ever half ſo uſeful 'in Phyſick, as I ſhould be to theſe feaveriſh Conſtitutions, to repreſs the violent Sallies of Youth, 'and give each Action its proper Weight and Repoſe.

'I can ſtifle any violent Inclination, and oppoſe 'a Torrent of Anger, or the Sollicitations of Revenge, with Succeſs. But Indolence is a Stream 'which flows ſlowly on, but yet undermines the 'Foundation of every Virtue. A Vice of a more 'lively Nature were a more deſirable Tyrant than 'this Ruſt of the Mind, which gives a Tincture 'of its Nature to every Action of ones Life. It 'were as little Hazard to be loſt in a Storm, as to 'lay thus perpetually becalm'd: And it is to no 'Purpoſe to have within one the Seeds of a thouſand good Qualities, if we want the Vigour and 'Reſolution neceſſary for the exerting them. 'Death brings all Perſons back to an Equality; and 'this Image of it, this Slumber of the Mind, 'leaves no Difference between the greateſt Genius 'and the meaneſt Underſtanding: A Faculty of 'doing things remarkably praiſe-worthy thus conceal'd, is of no more uſe to the Owner, than a 'Heap of Gold to the Man who dares not uſe it.

'To-Morrow is ſtill the fatal Time when all is 'to be rectified: To-Morrow comes, it goes, and 'ſtill I pleaſe my ſelf with the Shadow, whilſt I 'loſe the Reality; unmindful that the preſent Time 'alone is ours, the future is yet unborn, and the 'paſt is dead, and can only live (as Parents in 'their Children) in the Actions it has produced.

'The Time we live ought not to be computed 'by the Number of Years, but by the Uſe has been 'made of it; thus 'tis not the Extent of Ground, 'but the yearly Rent which gives the Value to the 'Eſtate. Wretched and thoughtleſs Creatures, in 'the only Place where Covetouſneſs were a Virtue 'we turn Prodigals! Nothing lies upon our Hands 'with ſuch Uneaſineſs, nor has there been ſo many 'Devices for any one thing, as to make it ſlide away imperceptibly and to no Purpoſe. A Shilling ſhall be hoarded up with Care, whilſt that 'which is above the Price of an Eſtate, is flung away with Diſregard and Contempt. There is 'nothing now-a-days ſo much avoided, as a ſollicitous Improvement of every Part of Time; 'tis a 'Report muſt be ſhun'd as one tenders the Name 'of a Wit and a fine Genius, and as one fears the 'dreadful Character of a laborious Plodder: But 'notwithſtanding this, the greateſt Wits any Age 'has produced thought far otherwiſe; for who 'can think either *Socrates* or *Demoſthenes* loſt any 'Reputation, by their continual Pains both in 'overcoming the Defects and improving the 'Gifts of Nature. All are acquainted with the 'Labour and Aſſiduity with which *Tully* acquired 'his Eloquence. *Seneca* in his Letters to *Lucilius* 'aſſures him, there was not a Day in which he 'did not either write ſomething, or read and epitomize ſome good Author; and I remember *Pli-*

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'ny in one of his Letters, where he gives an Account of the various Methods he uſed to fill up every Vacancy of Time, after ſeveral Imployments, which he enumerates; Sometimes, ſays he, I hunt; but even then I carry with me a Pocket-Book, that whilſt my Servants are buſied in diſpoſing of the Nets and other Matters, I may be employed in ſomething that may be uſeful to me in my Studies; and that if I miſs of my Game, I may at leaſt bring home ſome of my own Thoughts with me, and not have the Mortification of having caught nothing all Day.

'Thus, Sir, you ſee how many Examples I recall to Mind, and what Arguments I uſe with my ſelf to regain my Liberty: But as I am afraid 'tis no ordinary Perſwaſion that will be of Service, I ſhall expect your Thoughts on this Subject with the greateſt Impatience, eſpecially ſince the Good will not be confined to me alone, but will be of univerſal Uſe. For there is no Hopes of Amendment where Men are pleaſed with their Ruin, and whilſt they think Lazineſs is a deſirable Character: Whether it be that they like the State it ſelf, or that they think it gives them a new Luſtre when they do exert themſelves, ſeemingly to be able to do that without Labour and Application, which others attain to but with the greateſt Diligence. I am,

SIR,

Your moſt obliged humble Servant,

Samuel Slack.

Clytander to *Cleone.*

Madam,

'PErmiſſion to love you is all that I deſire, to 'conquer all the Difficulties thoſe about you 'place in my Way to ſurmount and acquire all thoſe 'Qualifications you expect in him who pretends to 'the Honour of being,

Madam,

Your moſt devoted humble Servant,

Clytander.

At the Duke of Marlborough's Head in Fleet-ſtreet, in the great Room, is to be ſeen the famous Poſture Maſter of Europe, who far exceeds the deceaſed Poſture-Maſters Clarke and Higgins: He extends his Body into all deformed Shapes; makes his Hip and Shoulder Bones meet one her; lays his Head upon the Ground, and turns his Head round twice or thrice, without ſtirring his Face from the Place; ſtands upon one Leg, and extends the other in a perpendicular Line half a Yard above his Head; and extends his Body from a Table, with his Head a Foot below his Heels, having nothing to ballance his Body but his Feet: With ſeveral other Poſtures too tedious to mention. Likewiſe a Child about 9 Years of Age, that ſhews ſuch Poſtures as never was ſeen perform'd by one of his Age. Alſo the famous Engliſh Artiſt, who turns his Balls into living Birds; and takes an empty Bag, which after being turn'd, trod, and ſtampt on, produces ſome Hundred of Eggs, and at laſt a living Hen. Side Boxes 2 s. Pit 1 s. To be perform'd at 7 a Clock every Evening. Note, He will perform in Town no longer than till Thurſday next, deſigning on that Day to ſet out for Cambridge, and gives this Notice to all Gentlemen and Ladies, to prevent their being diſappointed.

At the Deſire of ſeveral Perſons of Quality.

To be ſhewn this Week, and no more,

Juſt over-againſt the Muſe-Gate at Charing-Croſs

theſe Rarities following, viz. A little Man 3 Foot high and 32 Years of Age, ſtrait and proportionable every way. The next is his Wife, a little Woman, not 3 Foot high, and 30 Years of Age, who diverts the Company by her extraordinary Dancing, and is now big with Child, and very near her Time, being the leaſt Woman that ever was with Child in Europe: Likewiſe their little Horſe, 2 Foot odd Inches high, which perforins ſeveral wonderful Actions by the Word of Command, being ſo ſmall that it's kept in a Box. Next is that wonderful Female Creature having a Head like a Hog, a Satyr from the Coaſt of Brazil, having a Head like a Child, and of ſuch a wonderful Shape that the like was never ſeen in England before, with a great many ſtrange and wonderful Creatures, which are too tedious to be mentioned here. And is to be ſeen from 9 in the Morning till 9 at Night, where due Attendance ſhall be given.

The Houſe (late the Bull head Tavern) within Aldgate, with large Vaults, all new repair'd, is to be Let enquire at Mr. Smith's the next Door at the Entrance, or at Mr. Apley's in St Laurence-Lane, where a ſober young Man that can write may hear of a Place.

The Company for the Orkney and Zetland Fiſhery, having imported a large Quantity of new ſalted Cod and Ling, intend to ſell the ſame by Wholeſale or Retale, at their Houſe in Saliſbury Court, Fleet-ſtreet, and to continue till all be ſold.

Loſt the 17th Inſtant, a white Spaniel Bitch, with ſeveral liver-coloured Spots, large long liver-colour'd Ears, a liver-coloured Spot in the Middle of the Face, a ruſſet Back, and a buſhy Tail. Whoever brings it to Mrs. Shuttleworth in the New-Exchange, ſhall have a Crown Reward.

The Effigies of the late Lord Chief Juſtice Hales, with his Sum of Religion and Character: Engraved on a Copper-Plate. Formerly ſold for 12 s. now for 6 d. Likewiſe the 7 Cartons of Raphael Urbin, with the Time Cut done in Mezzotinto from the Gallery of Hampton Court. Formerly ſold for 20 s. now for 15 s. by Edw. Cooper at the 3 Pidgeons in Bedford ſtreet.

Notice is hereby given, that at Mr. William Watkins's Mountain-Vault in Queen's Head Yard near the Pallace in St. James's ſtreet, is ſold by Retale excellent Mountain-Malaga Wine at 6 s. 8 d. per Gallon or 1 s. 9 d. per Quart, being a freſh Parcel, juſt landed, and of the beſt Growth in Spain.

On Monday March the 3d, 1711-12, over-againſt the Sieve in the Little Minories near Aldgate, will be opened three Books on a Sale of Numbers, for improving ſmall Sums of Money, in a Method intirely new, and much ſuperior to any yet propoſed, and a great Advantage to the early Subſcribers; where conſtant Attendance will be given and Propoſals had gratis.

On Tueſday March the 4th, 1711-12, will be open'd three Books for improving ſmall Sums of Money, at the Sign of the Eyed-Bull in Maiden-Lane, Covent-Garden, where Propoſals may be had gratis.

Very great Choice of all Sorts of the beſt Black Silks for Hoods and Scarves, and the black Paduaſways and Mettans for Gowns and Petticoats; Likewiſe White Sarſenets and Perſians for Hoods, and coloured Perſians for Linings, are ſold very great Pennyworths either Wholeſale or Retale, at the Gloden Ball and two Rowls of Silk in St. Martins le Grand near Aldersgate, the ſecond Door above Angel-ſtreet, one Side being a Slipper and Leather Clogg Maker's Shop; by one who was bread a Mercer and lately lived on Ludgate-hill. He likewiſe ſells Furbulowed Scarves and Aprons ready made very cheap.

At the Wine-Cellar under the Sign of the Ship, in Princes's-ſtreet the upper End of Hedge-lane near Leiceſter-fields, is continued to be ſold extraordinary good, ſtrong, and true natural Port Wine at 6 s. per Gallon, or 1 s 8 d. per Quart; and extraordinary good Obrion Claret at 3 s. per Bottle, and French White Wine at 8 s a Gallon or 2 s. a Quart, and very good Bourdeaux Brandy at 13 s a Gallon, extraordinary good dry Mountain Malaga and White Liſbon Wines at 7 s. a Gallon, or 2 s. a Quart, and White Madera at 6 s. a Gallon, or 2 od. a Quart.

To be Lett or Sold,

Near the Northweſt Corner of Richmond-Green in Surrey, (next to Sir Cha. Hedges's), a Convenient large Brick Houſe, with very good Coach-Houſe, Stables, and Gardens. Inquire of Mr. John Rogers at the Angel and Star in Cheapſide, at Mr. J Drew's, Carpenter, or at Mr. Robert White's Coffee houſe in Richmond aforeſaid.

At Whitton in Middleſex is to be lett (with Land or without) a very good faſhionable Houſe of 8 Rooms on a Floor, with Saſh-Windows and Cloſets, and very good Offices, Landry, Brew-houſe and Dove houſe, Coach-houſe and Stables, and very handſome Gardens wall'd round and planted with the beſt Fruit, adorn'd with Statues, fine Greens, and a Wilderneſs, and Kitchen-Gardens, all lying compact. It is between Iſlington and Twickenham, about 10 Miles from London, 3 from Brentford, 3 from Kingſton, 2 from Richmond, and between 2 and 3 from Hampton-Court. Enquire of Mr. Thomas Jackſon Surgeon at Twickenham, or at Tom's Coffee-houſe in Devereaux Court near the Temple, London.

Lately publiſh'd,

The London new Method and Art of teaching Children to Spell and Read; ſo as they may, without the Help of any other Books, read the Bible in leſs than 12 Months. Note, This way of Teaching is approved by moſt School-Maſters as the beſt. Price bound 6 d. with great Allowance to thoſe who ſell or give them to Schools, &c. Printed for E Parker at the Bible and Crown in Lombard-ſtreet near Stocks Market.

Lately Publiſhed,

The Hiſtory of Prince Mirabel's Infancy, Riſe and Diſgrace; with the ſudden Promotion of Novicius: In which are intermixt all the Intrigues both amorous and political, relating to thoſe memorable Adventures; as alſo, the Characters of the old and new Favourites of both Sexes in the Court of Britannia. Collected from the Memoirs of a Courtier lately deceaſed. Printed for J Baker in Paternoſter-row. Price 1 s. Where may be had, the Triumph of Envy; or, the Viſion of Shilock the Jew, with a fine Cut. Price 6 d.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.